extension. If any further information is required, I shall gladly give you.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—My object in moving this resolution was to give an idea of the exact scope of the construction at Ramavarmapuram. But that has been sufficeintly thrashed out not only by the Hon'ble Member for Engineering but also by the Director of Public Instruction. I am surprised to find that in the discussion that arose just now larger issues than I expected were involved and as such new points have been raised on the matter. I like to withdraw the resolution. I would gladly welcome the usual remarks made by the Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudy. That is an insinuation which I never meant.

The resolution was withdrawn with leave of the House.

24. Trichur Play Ground.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I move that "This Council recommends to the Government to provide the Trichur town with a playing ground in a central place in Trichur town itself before they prohibit the use of the Trichur Palace Maidan by the public."

The only decent playing field, so far as I am aware, in the whole of the Cochin State is the Trichur palace grounds. I don't think that there is anybody in this House who has not seen it. It has been used as a playing field by the public for at least more than half a century. The Cochin Athletic Association was coducting the Cochin Inter-School Sports for the last ten years. The said Association also conducts annually the Kerala Inter-Collegiate Sports and Football tournaments, the Kerala football tournament and the Cochin Olympic Sports. The Government Schools in Trichur have no proper playing fields and the Sirkar High School and Training School are allowed to practice football, etc., in this field for some days in the week. The Cochin Police sports are also used to be conducted there.

It is with great regret that I have to tell this House, if it does not know already, that the Government has recently decided that the utilisation of this ground for the purposes of sports has to be discontinued and that the grounds have to be kept neat for palace gardens. I shall briefly state the history of this order. In the course of the speech at the prize distribution of the Inter-School Sports, Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar, the then Diwan of Cochin, observed that the Trichur Palace ground was being kept in a very bad condition and that it required considerable improvement and care taking. The Government soon appointed a committee consisting of the Chief Engineer, Director of Public Instruction, the Superintendent of Agriculture, the Municipal Chairman and my humble self to suggest ways and means for the improvement, proper up-keep and maintenance of

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the said Palace ground and to make it an ideal sports field. The committee submitted a report, plan and estimate of the amount necessary for levelling and turfing the ground and for constructing a gallery and pavilion. Orders were passed upon this report. When presiding over the prize distribution of the Inter-School Sports in 1927, the Diwan promised to provide for the levelling of the ground, laying down the race course etc. in the next budget but said that the construction of the gallery and the pavilion could not be sanctioned as they would necessitate certain alterations to the footwall not warranted by the provisions of the Cochin Ancient Monument Preservation Regulation. Seeing that no provision was made in the next budget as promised, I raised the point in this Council by means of a token motion. The Government told the House that it was due to a slip that no provision was made and promised that they would undertake the work that very year itself. Sanction was accordingly granted and fresh estimates were prepared and when the work was about to be started, the Government, for reasons not quite apparent, decided that the grounds should not be given for sports purposes and should form exclusively part of the palace premises. But they were kind enough to order the Chief Engineer and the Diwan Peishkar to select another suitable site for the sports' purposes. They did not get one. The Government however passed the following order, dated 12th September 1930.

"Government consider that the utilisation of the Trichur palace grounds for purposes of sports has to be discontinued and that the grounds have to be kept neat for Palace gardens. Some other place has therefore to be found for purposes of the playing ground, sports etc."

They further stated in the Proceedings that there would be spacious grounds at Ramavarmapuram and that "if there is no objection to make the grounds available to the Cochin Athletic Association during the periods of annual sports etc., the problem should appear to be solved.'

Sir, I submit that when they passed the above orders the Government failed to understand the real problem before them. The real issue before us then and now is not whether a spacious ground cannot be found for the Cochin Athletic Association to hold its annual sports and tournaments. Like most of our present Universetion, the Cochin Athletic Association is more of an examining body than an organisation to train up young men in physical culture and sports. And however much it may wish to be the latter, it has not yet been able to come up to that ideal, the main reason being the want of a good playing field at its disposal. It can as well hold its tournaments etc. in

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Ramavarmapuram, although it would be very expensive and inconvenient for all parties concerned. The real problem before us is where is the playing field for this large and growing Town of Ttichur, if it is to be deprived of the present Palace grounds. The whole of Trichur was stirred to its depths and it gave expression to its feelings in the protest meeting held on 10th October 1930 and appointed a deputation to wait upon the present Diwan. The deputation waited upon him and explained to him the whole matter. He passed the following order: "After careful consideration Government are pleased to order that a public play ground should be included in the Ramavarmapuram College scheme and that until this can be brought into existence games may be played in the old Palace grounds as in the past."

Sir, while thanking the Government for the above order, I respectfully submit that this is no solution of the real problem before us. The sum and substance of that order is that the Trichur Town will be given a playing field in Ramavarmapuram. Will that do is the question that we have to consider. I need hardly say that the only decent public playing ground in Trichur is the Palace grounds. The only other ground is the uncared for Thekkinkad Maidan round the Trichur Temple. It is not level. It is rocky and uneven. At the risk of some times their lives and limbs some students are using it as a play ground as the palace ground is not sufficient for their needs and clubs in Trichur.

The population of Trichur must now be about 40,000. I do not know the exact number of the schools and the extent of the playing grounds available to each. I had asked for those informations by means of some questions. I think that the student population will come up to at least 10,000. Besides a large number of High Schools there is also a First Grade College. So far as I am aware there is not a single decent spacious playing field for any one of these institutions for daily practice in sports, football and other games. By the conversion of the Palace grounds into a garden, the Government will be unnecessarily depriving the public and the various institutions, both Sirkar and Aided, in Trichur of the use of their only playing ground. The Trichur Town will soon lose its Palace ground and will be asked to go to Ramavarmapuram for sports and other games. Now, Sir, let us pause and consider, how far this is possible, practicable and desirable. The nearest place in Ramavarmapuram from the centre of Trichur will be 2½ to 3 miles. I am told that the nearest place may not be available as it is not quite suitable for the purpose. The place that they now propose to

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select is, I understand, about 4 miles, a little over 4 miles, from the heart of Trichur. Ramavarmapuram, you all know, is to the north of Trichur. The most thickly populated places in the town is to the South-Eastern and Western parts of Trichur. So the average distance for the people in these parts to go to Anappara will be 4 miles. The schools close at 4. The boys have to go home and take tiffin. And, Sir, is it possible, is it worth while for them to walk 4 miles up and 4 miles down after that? Yes, we have to walk. We are very poor. Not even 2 % of the students will be able to go there in cars or carriages. Sir, what will be the result? I think that it can better be imagined than described. Let me not be misunderstood as being completely against the government taking over the Palace ground, although I frankly confess that I have yet to be convinced of its necessity for same. The Palace grounds which is used as a playing field is separated from the old palace by a boundary wall. The old Palace is not being used by the Maharajas and the members of the Royal family. Sometimes the princes use it for a day or week during their stay in Trichur and they used to watch games with considerable interest. We have never caused any inconvenience or trouble to any body. But whatever that be, my object in tabling this motion is only to request the Government to give Trichur a good playing field before the Palace ground is taken away from it. If the exigencies of the Palace require the conversion of a beautiful public playing field into a Palace garden by all means do it. But give us another field in a central place. Sir, this is not exactly a local grievance. I request the members of this House not to take it in that spirit. It indirectly involves a great principle—the duty of the Government to provide adequate playing fields and recreation grounds in every town, nay in every village in our State as all the other civilised and responsible and progressive Governments are doing. In our State not many schools can boast of a playing ground, much less a playing field. Look at the condition of Ernakulam itself where our full-fledged First Grade College and other High Schools have not even one ground for a full foot-ball ground. Let us see what the others are doing outside the state and what they think of our playing fields here.

In pursuance of a Resolution passed in the Madras Legislative Council, the Government appointed a Committee to investigate the whole problem of physical education in the Presidency. One of the terms of reference to that committee was to determine the question of reservation by Government, Municipal Councils and District Boards of open spaces in villages, towns and cities for use as public play grounds, and of the offer

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of grants-in-aid to Municipalities and District Boards for the provision of opening areas subject to their authority for use as play ground. This committee presided over by the Hon'ble Mr. Chief Justice H. O. C. Beasley made the following recommendations:—

"Playing fields should usually not be more than half a mile away from the school but play grounds should adjoin the school. The committee recommend that all High Schools containing 250 boys or more should have at least 5 acres of land for playing fields and play grounds....The committee suggests that the Government should give a generous grant for purchasing grounds near schools and that waste lands near schools should be reserved for use by schools as play grounds, and that grants-in-aid should be given to Municipalities and District Boards for the provision of open spaces for use as public play grounds."

Ample provision had been made in the last Madras budget to cary out the above recommendations.

You may remember the visit of the Madras University Commission two years back to these parts. Para 53 of their report runs thus:—

"While in some places there are excellent play grounds in proximity to the College, in other cases, the grounds are either extremely inadequate or are situated at a considerable distance from the College. The Colleges most badly off, in regard to the provision of playing fields, are those situated in populous centres like the institutions at Trichinapolly, Trivandrum, Tinnevelly, *Trichur*, *Ernakulam* and Coimbatore."

It further states.—"The Principals of Colleges should make every endeavour to secure suitable play grounds and playing fields wherever necessary. The Commission hops that the Government will help the Colleges with liberal grants for the acquisition of land for this purpose."

And in spite of all this what do we find here? We are about to lose the one and only one playing field that we have for the whole State.

We saw a report recently in the Hindu about the endeavours that are being made by the Madras Corporation in this matter. Their programme is to secure one playing field at least for every ward and the work is going on satisfactorily. Our Municipalities, I am sorry to say, have not begun to interest themselves in this matter. They are even now recommending assignment of porambokes in towns to private persons without considering the bigger problem that is awaiting solution. The Physical Education is badly neglected. Our schools have no play grounds. The students have no aptitude for sports. They are content with passing the examination although most of them

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

become physical wrecks by the time they leave their Colleges. Let us therefore take up arms to counteract, in the words of the Beasley Commission, "the tendency to round shoulders, sunken chests, protruding abdomen, spinal curvature, and the careless shuffling gait which characterise so many school and College students".

I therefore request you to provide Trichur with a good playing ground in a central place in Trichur say within half a mile from the round. There are many places answering the above requirements in Trichur. The paddy fields to the west and north of the Palace ground can be acquired and levelled up. It is true that the cost may be a little high. But the cause for which it is going to be spent is so great that no body will say that it is a waste. Any amount is worth spending on such a noble cause.

A word more. I am glad that we have as the Head of the Government an Englishman. He must certainly be a sportsman. I am sure he will appreciate the absolute necessity and importance of playing grounds and will personally see that we get a good, decent ground in Trichur. With these few words I commend this resolution for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—I beg to second it. I want to know whether in any way it will interfere with the Palace residence. They have been using this ground for the last so many years.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Palace grounds are attached to the Palace. They are not considered to be private lands.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I know it is a poramboke.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Has there been any objection from the princes for it being used as a play ground?

Deputy President.—The princes do not permanently stay there.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They are attached to the Palace.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—They have been attached to the Palace for the last so many years. It is not about the right. The Palace people can appropriate the places for themselves. That is not the question. Is there any real objection from the princes? That is the question.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It might have been considered necessary for other purposes by the Palace.

Mr. K. Ayyappen.—We have been using it till now.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—You are still using it.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Who moved the Government to take this action. Now what is it that led to this order?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Member for Urakam said that there was a committee once appointed to go into the question of improving this palace grounds. That committee submitted a report, plan and estimate for about 13,700 rupees for levelling the ground and for constructing a pavilion and other improvements. At that time the Government ordered that it was not possible to allow these works to be done as it may be necessary to use the grounds for palace purposes. They have also since ordered that till that is not utilised for palace purposes there will be not objection for the people to go and play there as they have been doing till now.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warrier —It may be used as a garden or for any other purposes of the Palace. If I remember right, the objection rose to the construction of the pavilion and the galleries. The Government said that under the Cochin Ancient Monument Preservation Regulation they could not allow to make any material alterations to the existing earthern walls. That was what the Diwan publicly expressed at a meeting.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—By way of information may I know whether the mud wall has since been removed ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes, the mud wall on the Eastern side of the Palace grounds has been demolished.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—സാർ, ഞാൻഈ നിശ്ചയത്തെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ള ഉത്തരം കൊണ്ടു ഗവമ്മെൻറു പ്ലെഗ്രൗണ്ടു പരിഷ്കരിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചു എന്നു വരുന്നു. പരിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നതു ഇല്ലാതാക്കിയിട്ടായില്ലല്ലൊ? പരിഷ്കരിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചപ്പോൾ ആ സ്ഥലം പൊരാ എന്നു ഗവമ്മെൻറിനു തന്നെ തൊന്നി. പ്ലേഗ്രൗണ്ടു പരിഷ്കരിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നതുപൊലെ കൊട്ടാരത്തിൻെറ പരിസരങ്ങളും കൊട്ടാരത്തിൻെറ ഉപയൊഗത്തിനവെണ്ടി പരിഷ്കരിച്ചു വയ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവന്നെക്കാം. അതുകൊണ്ടു എനും ആ സ്ഥലം പ്ലെഗ്രൗണ്ടായി ഉപയൊഗിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഉദ്ദെശിച്ചതിൽ പരമാർത്ഥം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കാം. എനും ആസ്ഥലം പ്ലെഗ്രൗണ്ടായി വയ്ക്കണമെന്നു ഈ നിശ്ചയത്തിൽ പറയുന്നുമില്ല. ഈനിശ്ചയത്തിൽ പറയുന്നതുവെറുസ്ഥലം തുടുവപെട്ടർതന്നെ പ്ലെഗ്രൗണ്ടായി കൊടുക്കുന്നതുവരെയും ഈസ്ഥലംഅനുവദിക്കണമെന്നാണു". ആനപ്പാറപ്പായികളിക്കണമെന്നു തുടുക്കാർ ആരും പറയുകയില്ല. തുടുക്കാർ ആനപ്പാറകളിക്കാനായിപൊകണമെന്നില്ല. അവിടംവരെ നടന്നുപൊയിവന്നാൽ മാത്രമതി, ഒന്നാംതരംവ്യായാമംആകും. വ്യായാമത്തെപ്പറ്റി അല്പമെങ്കിലുംജ്ഞാനമുള്ള ഒരാളും തുടുക്കാരുടെ പ്ലെഗ്രൗണ്ടു ആനപ്പാറയാക്കണമെന്നു പറയുമെന്നു തൊന്നുന്നില്ല. തുടുവപെട്ടർഒരു പ്ലെഗ്രൗണ്ടു ആവിധമില്ലെന്നു ഇക്കാലത്തു പറ

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യുവാൻതക്കും ധൈര്യമുണ്ടാകയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഈ നിശ്ചയം എതിർക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ "ഞങ്ങടെ ഇവിടെഎന്തു യിശ്ചയം കൊണ്ടുവന്നാലും എതിർക്കാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു കാട്ടുകെട്ടിയിരിക്കയാണെന്നുമാത്രമേ ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളൂ വരും. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ പ്ലെഗ്രൗണ്ടുപരിഷ്കരിക്കണമെന്നു ഒരിക്കൽ സമ്മതിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞതിനാൽ തീർച്ചയായും ഗവമ്മെന്റു തുടുവപ്പെടുർ ഒരു പ്ലെഗ്രൗണ്ടിന്റെ ആവശ്യം സമ്മതിച്ചതായും ഇന്നുള്ള നിലയിൽ അതു പൊരാ എന്നുഗവമ്മെന്റിനു തോന്നിയതായും വരുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരം ഗവമ്മെന്റിന്റെ ഇതെവരെയുള്ള പ്രവർത്തികൾ കൊണ്ടു ഈനിശ്ചയത്തിൽ പറയുന്ന ആവശ്യം സമ്മതിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നസ്ഥതിക്കു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഇതു സ്വീകരിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള പ്രതീക്ഷയൊടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു.

Mr. C. V. Kurian.—Sir, I rise to support the resolution. The play ground in question was used for the last so many years and that was the only place where college students or boys or other younger generation can resort to for any game they could play. That play ground is going to be converted as a Palace garden for being used by the Palace. The Government was quite alive to the necessity of a play ground and they are also aware of the purpose served by it. Before they could undertake any steps to convert it for any other purpose it was their duty to consult the wish of the local people who have been using it for many years. Without consulting any section of opinion they launched upon to destroy that portion of the fort and annexed it to the Residency grounds. Now, that action taken by the Government is contrary to the wishes of all sections of people belonging to Trichur. Now, if they had any sense, they would have, before proceeding with the work, justly consulted the wishes of the people. It is against the expressed desire of the local people that they have now launched upon it. The excuse urged is that they are going to provide another play ground at Ramavarmapuram. That will not stand. Now Ramavarmapuram is at a distance of 4 or 5 miles and it is practically impossible for the boys to resort to that place if they are to play there. It is a meaningless objection raised on the part of the Government. It is highly necessary that it should be allowed to be used as a play ground.

The House rose for the day at 1" to 5 p. m.

T. K. KSISHNA MENON,
Secrtary to the Council.

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